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ABSTRACT

In Colorado, school discipline measures vary from classroom to classroom, school to school, and district to district. Another area of concern is the disproportionate number of ethnic minority students who are expelled in Colorado. While Latinos accounted for 17 percent of Colorado's students, they represented one-third of expelled students. African Americans were 5 percent of the student body, but 12 percent of expelled students. To determine how the community experienced and perceived expulsion and suspension, the Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA) collected case studies of 32 families, interviewed 24 students in 3 focus groups, and interviewed 13 community leaders. The data suggest that many student problems were never addressed and that expulsion was merely a short-term solution to a long-term problem. Recommendations are made that include: (1) alternatives for expelled students; (2) due process; (3) alternative discipline measures; (4) early prevention; (5) parent leadership training; (6) multicultural training for educators; (7) counseling; and (8) classroom structure. Six charts and seven tables present study findings. Appendix A contains parent responses to a questionnaire, and Appendix B summarizes student questionnaire responses. A 22-item bibliography follows the Introduction. (SLD)

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